Tell-Trothes New-yeares Gift

Beeing

Robin Good-fellowes newes out of those Countries, where inhabites neither Charity nor honesty.

With his owne Inuectiue against Ielosy.

LONDON

Imprinted by Robert Bourne.

1593.

13.

Aletheia

Tell-Trothes New-yeares Gift.

Marry sir, now you looke as if you expected newes, me thinks I see your eares open to heare what Robin good fellow will tel you, & because your desire shal not be altogether frustrate, you shal if you will be somewhat the wiser before you goe. I am assured it is not stale, and were you as long in reading of it, as the Senators haue bene in agréing vppon it: I know you would craue many baetes, before you had passed the mainger. But behold they had the paine, and you may haue the pleasure, and I am glad, that it was my fortune to méete with it, and doubtlesse it was a great hasard, that a worser carrier had not hapned on it. For thus it fel out: walking towards Islington in a frosty morning I by chaunce lighted into the company of a boone companion, that séemed no lesse pleasing in shew, then he proued in substaunce. A merry mate hee was and matched with one of his owne minde, a simple fellow that marchinge vnder the babbite of true-meaninge, tels all that he sées, and euery thing he thinkes to be true: Tell-troth is my name, and you may trust me if you will, for I assure you that he that creditеth me most, shall not spéede worst. We two matches mated by good fortune, Robin good-fellow the one, who neuer did worse harme, then correct manners, and made diligent maides: and I Tell troth the other, who euer haue béene a sworne enemy to lasye lurdens, and a professed foe to lack No-body: no sooner settinge our eyes, the one on the other, but knew each others conditions, falling forthwith into familiarity. And it being my hap to enquire first from whence hee came, hee made it not scrupulous to certifie his comming from hell, a place (sayde hee) that is odious, and yet to none but to them that feare it: Mary (qd. hee) Robin goodfellow, that could go inuisible from

his infancy, had it by nature giuen him, that he should bee subiect to no inferiour power whatsoeuer, either ruling or inhabiting vnder the highest elemente, with a generall priuiledge to search euery corner, and enter any castell to a good purpose. By libertye of which pattente, I crossed the riuer Stix in Carons boat without his leaue, giuinge him a patt on his drowsie pate for my passage. And from him vnknowne I came to Cerberus (that Lubberly Porter) who was makinge faste of the brand gates, which were faine to bee opened, that the greate Magog with his companye that were summoned to the Parliamente, might enter without interruption. He heard my trampling and therefore asked who was there? but when I would not aunsweare, he thought it was Lelaps his curre, bidding him to lie downe, and so likewise I easely entred the dungion. To tell what I there saw, were no newes: because it hath beene tolde by so many, whereof soome of them haue not reported amisse. But going on to the mercilesse pallace, the gates stode wide open, so that any might enter ther without controlement. With in the great Hall, whereof were assembled the whole society of bad company, a generall conuocation being called about the deciding of many matters which were not altogether perfected. There was a greate thronge, and no little sturre, the seuerall billes of complainte which were there exhibited of many matters, being so many as they would require an age to rehearse them, especially seeing this one matter whereof my newes consisteth, was a hearing and deciding seauen yeares.

But to come to the matter, all the worst diuels being placed in their orders according to their custome (which is needlesse to set downe, for that I hope there is none heere that euer meane to be partakers of any of their Offices) the Speaker vttered an Oration that would haue made a mastie to haue broke his collor with girning thereat, declaringe what a continuall profite Iealosie aboue all other vices brought to that place, praisinge so highly the commodity thereof as in his diuelish iudgement, hell would be paisinge beggerly without that helpe. Manifestinge how easely mens and womens mindes were drawn to all corruption

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ruption thereby, with ſuch a dilatinge narration as neuer an Orator in hell could haue ſpoken more. After the finiſhinge of whoſe fuſtie framed ſpæch, there was a queſt of enquiry called, whoſe foreman deliuered a whole bundell of ſcroles and papers, wherein were ſett downe the cauſes that helped Jeloſie with the meanes that hindered the ſame, as alſo the kindes thereof, with ſeuerall complaintes made both by men and women that were vexed with the like. The which I will quoth Robin deliuer vnto thæ if thou ſo wilt, whereof I bæing wonderfull deſirous, for Mens hominis nouitatis auida, hee went on with it as followeth.

The firſt cauſe (quoth he) is a conſtrained loue, when as parentes do by compulſion coople two bodies, neither reſpectinge the ioyning of their hartes, nor hauinge any care of the continaunce of their wellfare, but more regardinge the linkinge of wealth and money together, then of loue with honeſty: will force affection without liking, and cauſe loue with Jeloſie. For either they marry their children in their infancy, when they are not able to know what loue is, or elſe matche them with inequallity, ioyning burning ſommer with kea-cold winter, their daughters of twentye yeares olde or vnder, to rich cormorants of threeſcore or vpwards. Whereby either the diſlike that likely growes with yeares of diſcretion engendereth diſloyalty in the one, or the knowledge of the others diſability leades him to Jeloſie.

Parēts' f ced loue a cauſe of Jelouſy

What is the cauſe of ſo many houſholde breaches, denorcements and continuall diſcontentmentes, but vnnaturall diſagræmentes by vnmutuall contractes? Will the Turtel change while her mate is true, or the Swanne be cruell, as long as his female is loyall? If there be diſloyalty betwæne mates linked by their owne election, (as doubtleſſe there is) how can vnconſtancy be condemned in thoſe that neuer had that liberty? were the hart as ſubiect to the law as the body is, I would thinke ſuch marriages lawfull, but ſince the one hath liberty, when the other is in captiuity, I know Tell troth, (quoth Robin) it will not ceaſe to ſeeke reuenge for his bodies ſlauery, vnleſſe grace

Rob. Goo fellowes i greſsion. The natu of the Sw is that at ſuchtime he ſees an vnconſtan tricke to b perfourme by his fem he neuer

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correcteth, by shewinge what the law of God forbiddeth. Pre-tious iewels are chosen, and déere thinges loued, but at what price are those rated at, which are easely obtained? Doubtlesse at so low a reckoninge as pipple stones are, in comparison of pearles, the one had without cost or trauell, and the other not to be obtained without both. A lesson learned with stroakes staies with the scholler, when a sentence read without regarde, is not so sone in at one eare, as out at the other: And loue gained with sighes & slightes encreaseth, when obtained otherwise it soone decayeth. Durum pati meminisse dulce, ✠ an ounce of pleasure stolne with feare of a pound of vnrest, makes vs still to thinke on the swéetenesse of loue, and allwayes to be striuing to contin-nue it, when the contrary will procure lighte regarde thereof. How farre more delightsome, is stolne venison to him that hath inough, then his owne? And how pleasant is that meat in taste which is dainty? Thinges farre fetchte and déere boughte, are good for Ladies: and trifles will often better content, then treasure. The Diuels crye for mislike, but who beares the brunt of it? The féete that flie from it, not the head that bredd the baite, the man can prouide for himselfe, when the poore woman is voide of all succour, and he will haue a cloake to hide his misery, when she shall want a cap to couer his extremitye. She must beare the lumpes and lowres, if happily she escapes the blowes, the bitting wordes if not worse, euen cruell hart-breakinges and back-beatinges. Thus shall the Fathers co-uetuousnes, be cause of the childes vndoing, and his harts-ease beginning of her woe, and ende of her happinesse: his likinge méeting with her loathing, which shall vndoe her by Jelowsy. Hath God by an instinct of nature, ingrafted loue so farre forth in vnreasonable creatures, as they doo not onelye chuse their mates (as all creatures doe) but liue faithfullye to them, and constantly with them, so longe as life endureth, and shall that priuiledge be taken from man-kinde, whome onely he hath en-dowed with reason and discretion? The birdes bringe vpp the yong, vntill they can shift for themselues, and then giues them leaue to vse their liberty: the beastes of the fielde haue the selfe

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same frédome, and the fishes in the Sea, no other restrainte, onely man is iniurious vnto himselfe, by vnnaturall vsage of his déerest bloud. They care for their children vntill they be past care: and euen then themselues fréed from that charge, they bring their young ones to a greater crosse: geuing them sorrow for their pleasure and vnrest in stéede of hartes ease. They doe not matche them with the mates their childrens eies haue chosen, but with the men their owne gréedy desire haue found out: little fore-thinking of their childrens after-gréeuinge, and their owne repenting. They regard not now a dayes the old sayinge of the wise man, I had rather haue a man then mony, but testify by their doinges, that they estéeme more of wealth then of humanity. They forget what themselues haue béene, and will not remember what themselues haue done. Their coueteousnesse choaketh their charity, and their worldly care kéepe them for knowinge diuinity. They abhorre and grow mad to heare their children entreat for the maides that please them, or for the men their soules loue, but tirant like they say, sic volo sic iubeo, stet pro ratione voluntas: I like him, and thou shalt haue him, loue this man or I will loath thée. This effecte hath coueteousnesse in the father, and beholde what discontentmente it worketh in the childe.

Men n themseli vnnatur to their drē by t matches

He or shée by duety is bound to their Parentes commaundement, and for feare of their displeasure are linked to continuall misery. What saith the husband to the wife, but this was thy fathers worke, to winne me by his mony, and since hee hath his will with the want of my weale, I wil not liue alone in sorrow, hnt will make thée taste of the same sauce. Thy Father hath his, and why should I not haue mine? So saith he, and so fareth shée: hee inuentes meanes to make her mourne, and leaues no practise vntried, which is like to procure her misery. They liue in one house, as two ennemies lie in the field: their habitation being seuered, like twoo campes that bee ready for battell. Hauocke is made lauishly of that their fathers gathered corruptly, that either being spente lasciuiously in the company of straugers, or licentiously in controuersies at law. So great

mischiefe

mischiefe ariseth of couetousnesse in matches of matrimonye. Touching the saluing of which sore, it is most requisite that the children should haue their free liberty in likinge, as the fathers haue had theirs in chosing. For as those matches are best, wher there is a mutuall agreement betweene parentes and their children, so do those for the most part, loue best, that haue the priuiledge of chosinge for themselues, My cheefest reason may bee drawne from contentment in loue, which is satisfied with any thinge, according to the saying Loue hath no lacke, and my old lesson Selfe do, selfe haue, makes the patient often not to complaine of a great sore, when an other will cry out for no harme. Experience hath best displayed it to some: and common reason cannot but make it knowne to all. For who that hath done him selfe an iniury, will complaine thereof, for feare of being arcompted a foole? Or what woman that hath burnte her finger will blame others for the deede done by her selfe? You might haue tooke better heede, and It was your owne fault, are two shrode plasters for a greene wound: and the minds of men are best pleased with their owne thoughts, & women with nothing more contented, then to haue their willes. When a woman distrustes of any helpe to come from any part-taker, shee will bee glad to please hir husband, & they two falling forth, she (hauing none to mainetaine her in her pride) will bee contented to reconcile her selfe vnto him by kinde submission. And where a loning kisse will saue a great deale of cost, if there it bee not vsed, mony cannot be better bestowed then in buying wit to saue the next charges. But how now Robin thou hast beene ouer longe in thy digression? I haue indeede, and therfore frend Tell-troth I returne to my matter.

Indiscreete gouernment the second cause of Ielosy.

A second cause of Ielocy springeth from indiscretion in gouernment, which is either in one or both of them ỹ are linked together in mariage, neither of them hauing reason to knowe what belonges to either, or neither of them discretion rightly to correct what is amisse in either. Loue will bee too wanton vnlesse he be whipped with rushes, and ouer dull if his winges be clipped, giue him his liberty and he will runne at randum,

shut

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ſhut him vp in priſon and he will be ſtarke mad, ſo that gentle correction muſt barre his liberty, and mild chaſticement preuent his madneſſe, a wanton toung bewraies a laſciuious hart, and by the vttraunce of the toung wicked thoughts are manyfeſted, therfore either to gaze laſciuiouſly or to ſpeake wantonly may moue Jelloſy. Modeſty in a young woman is as a garland of wheat in a ioyfull harueſt, and diſcretion in a man like an oliue braunch after long diſcention, ſhe honoureth her huſband with a ſigne of happineſſe, and he contentes his wife with a pledge of loue, by his wiſdome hee teacheth her knowledge, and by her obedience ſhe makes him glad, his correction is as a warme cup of drinke to a cold ſtomake, and her reformation as a ſonne-ſhine daye after much raine. Peace flouriſheth where wiſdome ruleth, and ioy raigneth where modeſty directeth. To pleaſe the harte of a husbande is to ioyne vnity with the whole world, and to be in the loue and fauour of a wife is a freedome from much care, wiſdome therefore in men to gouerne their common wealths, and modeſtie in women are of no ſmall meanes to continue vnity, and deſtroy Jelloſy.

Another cauſe is cauſeleſſe diſcontentment, when the man will lowre without occaſion, and the woman fret, not knowing any reaſon, and eſpecially when either of them wil oppoſe themſelues againſt other, and both of them maintaine their hartes pride, when a man will finde fault without cauſe, or a woman complaine of two much eaſe, it ſhowes a troubled minde and breeds ſuſpect. He that cannot be merry at home goes about to perſwade hee will be mad abroad, and ſhee that lowers on her husband when he comes home, ſhowes ſhe had as liue haue his roome as his company, where loue is there is no thought of battell, and there what abſence hath hurt preſence will heale. A kind and louing wife forgetteth all vnkindneſſe by the ſight of her beſt beloued, as a child doth the correction of his mother by the receipt of an apple from her, and a diſcreete husband is no longer diſpleaſed then a fault is a doing Contentment is an excellent ſauce to eury diſh, and pleaſantneſſe a ſinguler portion to preuent miſchiefe, the head is neuer euill but either it is

Cauſles d contentme the third.

pleasantly disposed or knauishly occupied. A merry countenance is a signe of contentment, but froward wordes are messenger of melancholly. In what the hart delighteth with that it is best pleased, and harde it is to hault before a creppell. A frowne lodeth and a smile lightneth, to frowne therefore kindly is a barre to Jellocy: but loading crabbedly men vndoe themselues speedily.

ens follye fourth.

Many men delighting in much company, cannot be contented to follow their desire abroad by vsing new familiarity, but wil bring daily grief vnto their houses, as little regarding their dispositions with whome they ioyne frendship, as the occasions that may be offered of dislike by after repentings,, so that following their pleasure in satisfieng that humor, they fall afterwards into a worse vaine, being suspitious of ouer much familiarity to haue crept with their acquaintance, and doubtful least their copesmates are matched with them in their darlinges bosomes. When they will begin so to watch their wiues eies, and dogge their frendes lookes, as the mise shall not pepe without daunger of the cats, nor the silly women speake without suspition of falshood, Others will bring strang women vnto their wiues to welcome: speaking lauishly of their beauties, and vndecently in their praises, they will make comparison without discretion, and giue iudgement without wisdome. They regard present pleasure, but care not for future profit, not so much as thinking on the chilling winter in the heate of summer, nor of warre in time of peace. They consider not how loue wil brooke no equalitie, nor marriage allowe of the least vnconstancy, and both these though themselues haue beene the procurers of their own discontentment, yet will they lay all the burthen on their wiues backes, either plaging them in beeing suspitious, or punishing them by making them ielious. The old sayng is that he which will no pennance doe, must shonne the cause that belongs thereto: had I wist, is a slender remedy to remoue repentaunce, but a manifest badge of folly, especially when a man will leaue the bridg, to trie to leap ouer the ditch and fall into it. Thought is free, but when the toung blabs it is signe the hart

aboundes

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abounde. What an euident token of foliſh blindneſſe is it, for a man to ſeeke many daies to pleaſe his mind, when afterwards hauing found and inioying it he will miſlike thereof in a moment, by ſight of a new obiecte? O that is a weake harte that hath ſuch a wandring eie, and hee is no ſmall foole that ſo little eſteemes of experience, as hee delighteth in the practiſe of vnknowne concluſions. Might it pleaſe them to vſe leſſe wordes and more wit, fewer companions or kinder familiarity, they ſhould not ſo lightly enter the hazard of Jelloſy.

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Jeloſy.

Ill counſell is the next cauſe of Jelloſy, wher by the wicked (whoſe immaginations are only to ſoe diſcentions by bruting euil ſuppoſes, bred of a ſuſpitious braine & vttered with colored hipocriſie) labour to ſette debate betweene true hartes, and to ſhuffle in ſuſpition amongſt thoſe that are free from thought thereof. They will ſtriue to perſwade by liklyhoods & confirme aſcertions with falſe oathes. They will place betweene man and wife a tree of diſcorde, and plant in peacable houſes rootes of variance, their toungs ſhall be wagging to wiſh them to taſt of the fruit thereof: their heads ſtudying how to bring them to like of the practiſe of their premeditated miſchiefe. They will alleadg, lo thus it hath proued by others, and ſo hath it fell out vnto them for want of ſuſpition. Think on the worſt (ſay they) for the beſt is not hurtfull, but thinke of them as of the worſt ſay I, for they are moſt hurtfull.

Credite
uen to fal
reportes
ſixt.

And theſe make-bates will not let to brute reportes though meerely falſe to confirme their ſayings, cloking their miſchiefe with the habit of good meaning, and hiding their knauery with a ſhow of puritie. They will tatle tales as if fraught with truth: and vtter ſlanders, with proteſtations. They will inuent to perſwade, and ſweare to confirme: ſticking burres on their backes that were free from motes, and filling their heads with wonders that before were in quiſt. They ioy to ſet diſcention in a louing plat, and reioyce to ſee debate betweene faithfull frendes, they hunt after controuerſie and honour Jelloſy. And becauſe themſelues are old, they will hate all that are younger then themſelues, and ſuſpect all for that themſelues haue loued

the game, experience of knauery is a pestilent helpe to Jelosy, and if the mother hath loued to playe false, shee will bee sure to mistrust the daughter. Beware for I haue tried tis a vile whip to scourge a feareful hart with, and perswasions from a dissembling hart are wondrous hurtfull to an vnconstant louer. It is a small bit that will not make a hungry dogge gape, and an vnsauery morsell that will not content a longing appetite. A will with a diuelish wit will practise any thing, and what is it that they cannot effecte? Marry the best helpe to preuent their mischiefe is misbeliefe and the readiest mean to trie truth, is to search into their own liues. And for that you shall Tell-Troth, quoth hee, the better vnderstand the diuelishnesse of such creatures as are these makebates, I will tell thee a merry tale, I haue hard there tould of one who was crost in her wicked suspition.

erry tale make

There was an olde trott, that in her youth hauing béene a true traueller, and now through her loose life was worne to the bones and past all goodnesse, dwelled nére vnto a proper young woman matched with a very honest man. This olde beldame being good for nothing but to keepe the cat out of the ashes, and to prattell ouer a pot of nut-browne ale, would spend the rest of her time which was not imployed ouer the fagget, in sitting at the doore to watch what company resorted to the young mans house afore said. Whether for that he was of a trade did come diuers, some to bargaine, other about other businesse, and amongst the rest this man had a frend being a young man which did often repaire thether. The olde cat hauing seene him there twise or thrise, beeing at a certaine time amongst many of her other gossopes, (like vnto her selfe in condition and of her own stampe by antiquity) called this honest mans wiues name into question, so setting her worne chappes a wagging, as she burthened her conscience with the confirmation of her mistrustfullnesse concerning her liuing. The resorte thether was her reason, and the sight of the former younge man her conclusion for the truth thereof. Some of her companions (somewhat better disposed then her selfe) gaue their iudgement with some to le-

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leration concerning the ſuſpected diſhoneſty, of which ſhe miſliking, reproued their light of beliefe with a ſhameleſſe interrogation, howe ſhee could bee honeſt ſeeing ſuch a one doth reſorte daily vnto her, who is like to bee a wild youth and therefore cunning, and ſhe a young woman ſoone to be inticed, we know (ſaid ſhe) by experience the dealings of ſuch mates, hauing our ſelues beene fully tried by their ſlightes, verily they cannot be well thought on, nor may ſhe be liked nor her husband praiſed, for giuing ſuch entertainment. Vpon which report, her withered goſſipes gaue vppe their verdict that then indeede ſhe could not be honeſt, and ſo for that time the court broke vppe. They gon, this wether-beaten fieres-bird could not be ſatisfied with thus much, but the chuffe her husband comming in, ſhee could not chuſe but tell him of the company that had beene with her, and of the talke that had paſſed betweene them, with a recitall of her newly brooched miſchiefe, affirming it was great pittie, ſeeing ſhe was a very proper young woman, and hee an honeſt man, a young beginner that was like to doe well, were he not ouer-reached by ſuch companions. Doubtleſſe (quoth ſhee) it were good, and a thing well pleaſing vnto god to impart thus much vnto her husband, peraduenture he ſilly man miſtruſt no ſuch matter, or is loth to offend his wife by telling her of it, but if hee ſeekes not preſent remedy howe is it poſſible hee ſhould eſcape vndoing? To which ſuppoſed impoſſibility hee agreed, I thinke lead thereunto rather for feare then otherwiſe, as you ſhall hereafter gather. Well ſhortly they agréed to ſend for the yong man, and at his comming ſent for a pinte of wine, giuing him therewith to gnaw ſuch cruſtes of ſmall comfort, as tended both to his owne diſcredite, & his wiues diſhoneſty: both their opinions concerning ſuch men which reſort to his houſe, as they feared, rather to her then to him: as alſo the reportes of other their neighbours that greatly pittied them, miſtruſting no leſſe then they had ſaide, confirmed their ſlaunders endinge their tittell tattell, with perſwaſions to forewarne their wiues of ſuch company. With which vnlooked for banquet the younge man being ſtroken amaſed (and maruell not ſince it was meat

A fieres-bird for that ſhe ſat continually by the fire ſide.

of so hard a disgesture) stoode still for a season, but after callinge his wittes together (of which he had no small néede being mated with two such rookes) assured them of his wiues constancye toward him that loued him most intierly and obeyed him most duetyfully. And touching the resorte, his trade required customers, and not of the worst sort (for he was a shoomaker) and so lightly thanking them for their protested good will (giuing as small credit to their prittell prattell as he had stomacke to their chéere) he departed home nothing lesse louing or thinking worse of his wife then hee did before. But they seeing their purpose tooke so little effecte, grewe mad especially the she beetell that in a great rage she posted to the tauerne, where she found some of the quest of inquiry aforesaid, to whome she blased the rancour of her hart, showing them howe shamefully their young neighbour was wronged and dishonestly abused through his kind simplicity. Whereuppon this honest man was dubbed amongst them a wittall, but while mother trot and her fellowes were descanting on others honesty, there came in a new gossip and not without newes, assuring this bréede-bate that her husband (the olde fornicator that had beene with his wife a bate-maker) was at the flower de luce, a house of as good resort of honest women as any be in brid-well, and had sent for thether wine and other good chéere, which brought so bad chéere to her hart as in all haste shee did runne thether: where not finding him, but vnderstanding I know not by what meanes that hee was newe gon, shee fals so hot to scoulding with the whipperginne her ostice, as from wordes they fell to blowes, so as in the ende our good neighbour came home to her husband with a painted face, as if shée had béene at her nuntions with cats. Well béeing come Joane Stoomp-foot and Tom Totty, fell to thou knaue and thou queane, with other such shamelesse tearmes, as her husband not able to ouermaister her that way, began to béelabour her faire and handsomely with a faggotstick, a present remedy to charme such diuelish tounges. With which noise (for doubtlesse it was great, especially, the longe toungd beare getting the worse) the neighbours béeing troubled, were

They are okes for elr trouing tongs.

he nature a Hee beell is, with eir whole rce to flie gainstei- her man or east tosting erhem.

Which was the Shee make-bate.

forced

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forced of pitty to come in, who seeing the fray bloody, severed the knaue and the queane, and so parted the combate. But the scolding champion (hauing good occasion to set her chappes a-wagging, that were faine to slaunder before for want of other matter) cursed the time that euer shee met with such a whore master knaue, telling the whole circumstaunces of the matter with tearmes fit for women of her owne stampe. And her husband on the contrary part forced to beare her tale, requites it with a ladish tricke that she was taken with before time by him in his celler with a collier vpon two sackes of coales. And thus both of them that accused others so lately of dishonesty, were now by all condemned for a Jelious knaue and a mistrustfull baude, worthy titles for such makebates.

I therefore warne (quoth Robin) both all such Jelious gossipes as loue to haue owers in euery mans bote, and could wish that all mens daggars belonged to their sheathes, and also those driggell draggells (whose wicked and lasciuious liues haue wasted their bodies to the bones, and yet not worne the tippes of their tounges) to leaue to be so rash in their iudgementes, or to let their shameleese instrumentes to blabb such vnconscionable vntrothes to so abhominable an ende. And I also councell both men and women lightly to regard their backebitings and slaunders, that by vncharitable intermedling with their doings seeke to moue strife and procure dislike, betweene those that loue faithfully, and liue quietly together, neuer giuing occasion of suspition the one to the other, seeing that slaunders are onely likely hoodes and no likelyhood certaine.

A seauenth cause procedeth of hard vsage, when as a man will brutishly vse his wife by strokes, and currishly barre her of matrimoniall kindnesse. The man that will lifte vp his hand against his wife, is like the horse that doth fling out his heeles to strike his keeper, the one hauing a knautshe, and the other a ladish tricke. Will a man of loue launce his owne fleshe, thoughe some of deuotion scourge their owne backes? Doth not the dog feare the staffe that hath stroken him: and can a woman like of the hand that hath hurt her. He that calleth his brother foole in anger,

The hard vsage either of a man towardes his wife, or of woman towards her husbande is the seauenth cause of Jelosy.

anger, is in daunger of hell fire: and thinkes the other man that hatefully beates his wife, or the woman that reuiles her husband, which are neerer the one to the other to escape that furnace. It is an easie matter to find a staffe to beate a dogge, but vnpossible to meete with a dogge that will loue to be beaten with a staffe, and as hard to finde a kinde husband that will hold vppe his hand in anger against his wife, which is as his owne hart vnto him, but it is very easie, for that they are ouer-common to light vppon breakers of wedlocke, that will hold vp their armes, bend their fists, and beat their silly wiues, at their comming home from bad women, loathinge those that loue them, and louing those that lothes them but for aduauntage. There was also information made of many that hauinge vsed their wiues wondrous ill all their life time, dealing with them, as rigorously as many iades do with the Ostlers knauishly, that notwithstanding their cruelty hath bæne manifest to the whole world: yet lying vpon their deathes bed, as late as possible they could, and yet better late then neuer, haue stroken with penitencie, confessed their faultes with sorrow, and affirmed with protestations that they knew there were nor euer haue bæne more faithfull, carefull, obediente nor louinge wiues then theirs: I pray you what would such haue prooued, if they had bæne matched with like kind-harted men. Well I leaue that to your iudgement, and will come to the last cause of Ielosy.

Which being not the least, is a leaud behauiour in company, when by lose trickes it may bee adiudged, that nothing but opportunity, is wantinge to their inciuillity. But where shame tames not, there blame maines not. A festred sore must haue a searching salue, and a shameleste smile, an open frowne. They that carelesly offende the law of modestye, must not taste of the swæte of courtesy, and they which respect not humanity, shalbe troubled with Ielosy. Blame not the childe that feares the rod, hauing felt the smart therof, nor mislike those that shonne soure thinges, hauing tasted of suger. A hound that knowes the game, delightes in hunting, and geue the kæper leaue to bestirre himselfe

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ſelfe when a curre chaſeth his deare. Hee that ſteales by night eſcapes often when the day-theeues is apprehended, but an impudent and deſperate robber muſt haue a ſhort dome, for that a plaine matter needes a ſmall triall. He that feares not the halter will hardly become true, and they that care not for ſuſpect are ſeldome honeſt. A ſtill dogge bites ſore, but the barking cur feares more. The hart is the director of the other partes. I pray you then what thinkes he that ſhames not who ſée. Fy of hipocricie, but the diuell take impudencie.

Theſe cauſes thus ſet downe were reduced into theſe eight kindes. Knauiſh and fooliſh doters and fornicators, backebiters and liers. Bankrotes and hipocrites, the two firſt kindes haue effectes from the third fourth and eight cauſes, the two ſecond from the firſt and fift, the ſix and ſeauen kindes of the fourth and fift cauſes, and the two laſt proceede of the ſecond, third and ſeauenth cauſes, of euery one of which there was a ſeuerall bil of complaint delinered, which for that they were very tedious, I haue but onely brought awaye the endorſements of them.

The firſt was that whereas Jaſper Impudencie lately entertained into the familiarity of one Joone good wench, that had vſed him very kindly in ſecrete, had to her great diſcredite, for that ſhe barred him of that Priuiledge in an open aſſembly, called her name and fame in queſtion, by accuſing her of plaing faſt and looſe (about a kind glaunce that ſhæ had geuen vnto an other, that had better deſerued her fauour) in conſideration of whoſe foliſh knauery and knauiſh folly, ſhée deſired redreſſe againſt him.

The ſecond was againſt the folly of a yong nouice, that was ſo paſsionate for the loue of a maide, that he could not ſée any to ſpeake vnto her, but ſtraighte would fall into a ſounde through Jelosy. An other complained of an old dotor of fourſcore yeares of age, that had gotten through the compulſion of her parentes her ſelfe in marriage, being but two and twenty. Who through his watching, and the dodging of an old beldam his ſiſter, being in houſe with him, was ſo tormented, that if ſhæ were neuer ſo little out of both their ſightes: he preſently thought his head be-

gan to bud, though it were in the deade of winter, and woulde moſt ſhamefully raile vpon her. And ſhée hauing learned ſome ſubtelty by the old foxes craft, on a time ſtole foorth to her fathers to ſupper, not making any priuy to her parting, and there ſtayed vntill nine of the clock. When comming home ſhée found her husband a bed, that had almoſt fretted his hart out, for his wiues long tarrying: who no ſoner ſaw her, but fell a threatning of her, and ſtrictly examining her where ſhée had béene: But ſhée béeing well acquainted with that cuſtome, fained, that by chaunce, comming from her fathers, ſhée met with a younge gentleman, an old frend of hers, that would not be ſaid nay, but ſhe muſt of force go ſup with him. And affirming that to be true ſhée fell downe vppon her knées and craued his pardon. At the hearing of which, yea and before ſhée had quite done, (now thinking that to be certeine, which before he onely miſtruſted, being verily perſuaded that the deſtinies hadd crowned him with a paire of hornes for his New-yeares gift) he ſpitted at her, laying Bridewell in her diſh, and the cart for her trencher: not only refuſing her company for his bedfellow, but driuing her out of his chamber with a bedſtaffe. Neither contented with this, but in all haſt in the morning, hee trotted vnto her fathers: informing him of many falſe tales, and amongſt the reſt, her laſt nights tricke was brought in for a confirmation of his hard fortune, in béeinge matched with ſuche a one. But her father knowing that to be falſe, and the other as likely, perſuaded him from his Ieloſy, which would not be notwithſtanding.

The fourth kind deſired iudgement againſt their huſbands, that hauing beene married to them the ſpace of threeſcore yeers, and growing wery of them, brought home to their houſes yong men vnder the titles of their kinſmen to haunt their companies, with commandment that they ſhould vſe them as well as them ſelues. Who (through their ciuill behauior deſeruing no leſſe) being on a certaine time in their chamber with them, were taken by their husbandes with other of their copeſmates, that through bribes proued falſe wittneſſes, by which the old fornicators procured deuorcementes and married younge wenches.

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As for make-bates, there was framed against them a bill to the effecte of the tale afore tould of them. And touching their commorades the liers, they were complained of for that in open assemblies, they would speake against Jelosy, cursing him and his followers. But beeing matched according to their hartes desire, with women that are most faithfull and honest, enioying through them the happinesse of a blessed estate, they ouercloyed with the sweete it yeeldeth, and wearied with the gainefull fruite which ariseth therof, will (for that ther are no occasions of Jelosy offered) themselues nourish causers, by most vnciuill companions. Talke of Jelosy in their company, they wil vtterly condempne such sickell headed Bussardes, that vppon euery light occasion are mistrustful of their wiues, swearing and protesting that they are not, nor would bee of such a suspitious society for the world: when their priuy checkes for their wiues modest familiarity shall be so openly executed, as their actions show their tounges haue lyed.

But these of the first kinde, are knaues in graine, that hauing lauisht their stockes leaudly by badd meanes, and seeing their estates to grow weake, will seeke out wiues not of the common sorte for properneſſe, but suche matchlesse paragons, as are for neatnesse not to be mated in a countrey. These must bee sett in their shoppes to tole in customers, vnto whome if they show not themselues good-fellowes by gentle speeches, their houses will proue to hoat for them. They must not sticke to promise fairely and to kisse, so they do it closely, onely this prouiso must be had, that they keepe them out of their mony bores and closecubberds. Which practise prouinge profitable, and thereby their estates being amended, straight false measure is suspected, and therupon this their owne inuention misliked off. Then they will say that they do more then their commission alloweth, though lesse a great deale then in the beginning was cõmaunded. Yea thence after they must sit no more in the shoppes for feare of thunderclappes, and if perchaunce once in a moneth they are there, in which time it may happen some of their olde customers to come to renue their acquaintance, priuy frownes shalbe geuen them

of the wittals their husbandes, their chapmen beeing in company, and in their absence bitter woordes, if not bitinge blowes. Then shall they not bee suffered to looke on a man without controlement, nor dare to speake to any for feare of buffets. If any aske for them buying there, presently they are thoughte to be their wiues customers, and therefore shall haue bad entertainement, and be serued with the woorst stuffe, if any be worse then other.

The last were cried out vppon, for that whereas they are married with honest mens children beeing beloued of them far better then they deserue, they will showe them so much kindnesse in their wooing time and on their marriage day, as they leaue neuer a whit for the time following. For hauing reaped the first dayes rost, and beeing inriched with the profit thereof, they growe careless of that which might insue, thinking there is no heauen but the time present, nor any commodity like to arise of the remnant. Before company their kindnesse shall bee so freely bled, as when their wiues and they are alone, noughte but bitter wordes and worse shall followe. Abroad their behauior towardes them shall bee passing louing, mingled with kinde mirth, but at home they will so lumpe and lowre, as it were better to be in hel then to liue in house with such hipocriticall Jelious husbandes. At feastes and at assemblies they will vse themselues like saintes, affirming they are matched with pearlesse wenches for good and honeste behauior, but in their chambers they are diuels, suspecting falshood and close dealings betweene their dearest frends and faithfull wiues. And to make an end of the medle, I will tell you of an euidence giuen there, against a most notable asse.

There was one that to shonne his predestinated fortune, and to preuent his hard hap fore-told him by some diuell incarnate, did search to see if hee might finde suche an ill-fauoured peece of stuffe as all men els would mislike of, not estéeming how deformed shée were, so shée brought money with her. And at last Nature had shapen a morcell for his toth, such a matche as it was impossible to mate her, vnlesse her forenamed mother had bene

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hired therevnto. Shée was béetell-browed, goggell-eyed, blobber-lipt, wry-necked, croke-backt, and splay-foted: hauinge the huckle bone of her brech burst, whereby shée wente wriggling with her taile, like a broken legged dogge, with so swéete a breath, as a man had beene as good to haue gone fastinge into the common gardens about London, as into her chamber when she was in it. With this vnmatchable creature did this stripling marrie, supposing it vnpossible that she thā had neuer a good part in her body, shoulde haue so bad a tricke as to lende his mustard pot to others vses. Wherevppon ioying that héé alone liued with an honest woman (as héé thought) héé would laugh at his neighbours folly, for chosing wiues to serue other mens turnes, béeing by féeding of their owne fancies, cuckold by such as himselfe was, who had notwithstandinge at home for his owne diet, such an one as would not béé of others regarded, nor himselfe coulde snuffe it off. But his tender crippell knowing that there were Vulcans, that woulde sometimes looke into straunge Smithes shoppes, and persuading her selfe that Pecunia omnia potest, did hire a plowman shée had, to supplye some wants in her swéete partes absence. Who agréed on the matter did so closely perfourme their knauery, as to their thinkinge the Diuell himselfe perceiued not their villany. Well, soone after there came certaine chapmen to this clothiers house, (for he was of that trade) to make merry with him al the Christ masse holly dayes, in which time they vsed this kinde crippell for his sake so familiarly, as they would iest with her before his face. Who watchinge for a dishe from off Jelosies table, feared his owne shadow would beguile himselfe, and therefore would neuer leaue, vntill by a shift he had got them forth of his doores. So played héé with euery one that came after vnto his house, warning his wife from vsing such companions familiarly: neuer misdoubtinge Lobb his man, that did daunce trenchemore once euery day in his privy kitchin. But the destinies that had sworne his horned dubbing, to let him séé the fruite of his choice and the certainety of his fortune, (for to be a cuckold and know it not, is no more (sayes some) then to drincke with a flye in his

cuppe and ſée it not) brought him on a time into his barne, when thinking to finde his man a threshing, he found him a kissing of his crippell, with so plaine further euidence of his hard fortune, as he killed both man and wife, and himselfe was hanged for it afterwardes.

Of these sortes were the billes of enditementes, béeing practises so well liked and allowed off by this confocation, as the perfourmers of them were rewarded with the best entertainement Hell affoordes. And laying plats to effect further mischief, they concluded that by cutting one an others throat, their kingdome might soonest be enlarged. To which end they inuented these meanes, which I will rehearse vnto thée.

First that knauish Iealosy should be requited with clubbing iniury: namely that they that shal abuse their loues with lauish spæches, shall be lubberly beaten by champions, which shall be prouided for that purpose: so that through knauish mistrustfullnesse and murthering reuenge they may all purchase Hell. Thẽ that those foles, which (being lodgde in the bed of constant amity, taking their rest in Pleasures armes: and rocked a slæpe louingly, like infantes in the cradle of Disporte, by their nurses Carefullnesse & Security) tosse their loues constancy so lightly with stroakes of biting and iniurious wordes, and baule so vnquietly, showing most ielious trickes of childishe mistrustfullnesse, as they force thereby their nurses to bee careleſſe of their vndiscréete quietnesse, and to turne their blisse into bane. That these (I saye) for requitall of suche foolishnesse shoulde bee cast off, neuer againe to tast of the swæteneſſe of their loones wonted curtesy, by which meanes they may become desperate, and hang themselues.

And touching doating or dolting Iealosy, that their wiues to pay them for their suspition shoulde not wander much abroade, nor giue entertainement to any gallants at home, but to growe familiar with their seruauntes, and ioyne such a helper to their husbandes imperfection as Jacke the scullian is, which shall neuer bee mistrusted. And the better to effecte their knauery, it was agréed that they should bée councelled that euer after Ie-

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lious complaintes made, by their husbandes to their frendes, they shoulde sitte withe them at dinner and supper for company to preuente misdoubte, but shoulde not eate a bit, nor drinke a droppe without their kindnes, for their husbandes vnkindnes did yeeld sufficient teares to quench their thirst with. Marry in a corner with iacke their partners to fare as well as money and mirth could make them, Whereby it was thought that they would recant of their Jelosy, and giue them liberty to vse it at their pleasure so far, as thẽselues might be assured how much they were vnhappy. And that fornicators (after they had obtained their desires according to the course of lawe) should stroking vppe their crooked shankes, and belabouring their rusty beardes with their wetherbeaten fingers, seeking other wenches meet with whipper ginnies that should knowe how to vse such old leachers so handsomely, (beeing contented to indure discontentment, with the thought of the coine that lines their olde bagges) as they shall be reputed by them for as honest women as liue; vntill the wedding day bee past, when in the euening (fore-thinkinge of the small pleasure is like to ensue by their pastime) they shal faine themselues so sicke as of force they will lye alone, or at least without those old wretches. So shall they serue them by the space of a moneth, by which time (and it is no marueil) the churles will beginne to misdoubt somewhat. But what shall they care seeinge they are mistrisses of all they haue, and can keepe the chuffes from their owne? When they tell them of their vnkindnesse, these wil be ready to spit in their faces, bidding them to goe trott vnto their trulles: As for them selues they cannot abide such olde fooles, their breath stinckes, they slauer with their kissinge, with suche other opprobrious scoffes, as by their harde speeches and woorse vsage, they shall make the olde fooles to betake themselues to their beades, confessing with shame their shameless behauiour towardes their late faithfull wiues, and cursing the cause of this hapless fortune cry Peccaui, and die quite discontented.

It was further agreed vppon, that backebiters that will not cease to blaze iclious vntrothes, shall bee plagued with hauinge

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their lounges pulled foorth, or else worse punished by lossinge the regardes of supposed honesty. And all the commodity suche malicious Impes shall reape for their knauery is a faire purchased place called Bridewell, and for their false reportes, they shall bee sure of a proper cage to singe in: where their good names dyinge with their honestye, they shall bee carried from thence in cartes of reproach and be buried in continual infamy, ronge to hell with lashes of whip-corde. And the liers they because they would not be tellious, but cannot leaue it, shal weare hornes whether they will or no.

But the grand wittalls, that will allure cuckomers by the fine wenches, and with hauing inriched themselues thereby, will turne their knauery into villanie. They by their crabbednesse shall come to extreame pouerty, and then endeauoring to put in triall their olde cuckome, their wiues shall either growe sturborne and reape no profit, or else too too librrall spending the remnant which is left, leauing their husbandes as monylesse as witlesse. As for the last sort not least, whose mistrustfullnesse cut their owne throates, causing their wiues to fall vnto lewdenesse by ouer rulinge them with hippocriticall iurisdiction. Onely this shall be added vnto the forwardnesse of their distruction, that their halting dissimulation should breede vpstartes to saue their fore forheades, and they regarding to maintaine their owne good names with hipocritie, shall thereby plante newe trickes of huswiuerie in their wiues consciences.

Thus Telltroth (quoth Robin) thou hast hard some thinge that thou neuer hardst of before, which when it shall come vnto the diuells eares, I knowe hee will bee monstrous collericke, but it mattereth not, it is better he should fret then humanity fade. For vnlesse these his inuentions should be knowne, how should they be preuented. I tell thee (frend) howsoeuer some thinke of me, Robin as he is a good fellowe by name, so is hee no lesse in minde, and I sweare vnto thee I had rather see the diuells dance the morice alone in that fiery hellhouse, then a christian to foote it there, through want of knowledge of their

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inuentions. O tell troth is it not great pittie, to see so manye thousandes through folly to inthrall themselues to tormentes euerlasting, thou wouldest thinke it vnpossible that the hundred part of them which are there onely for Jelosy, should bee bred in a world. Why man I haue onely tould thée of the Jelosy betweene man and wife and the louer and his sweet hart, I haue not touched the Jelosy betweene frend and frend, the father and his sonne, the mother and her daughter, yea and betweene whome not, that are ioyned together, either by consanguinity, neighbourhood, by office, or duety. I let these passe, because I meane not to meddle with them, onely because thou wantest some way to thy iornyes end, I will tell thée a pretty iest, which though it bee misplaced for want of memory, yet here it may come in very good tim. And it is of an olde dotor that was very well serued.

This dotor who though he were a man of fowerscore yeares of age (knowing himselfe vnable to satisfy the expectation of a widow of his owne standing) yet would he nædes marry with a girle of foureténe. Who being constrained thereunto by her frendes compulsion, not knowinge what belonged to the rites of matrimony, was contented to loue him entierly and to liue truely vnto him without thought of dishonesty. Yet so ill conceited was this foolish dotor, and so weary of his happy estate, as although he knew assuredly the cubbard was close shutt and without any crannes, yet could he neuertheless suspect the silly mouse and would set trappes, hopinge to catche her, counselled thereunto by his misdéeming thoughtes. If shée had bœne neuer so little out of his sight, he thought it was the spring time, being but Christmas, to stay the forwardnes whereof, his frost-biting words should nippe her. The younge cubbe at last (learning subtilty by the olde Fox) suspectinge there was some further sweéte in a marryed womans life, then as yet shée had tasted off, onely persuaded thereunto by her husbandes Jelosye, toke harte at grasse, and woulde nædes trie a newe conclusion. The nexte day beeing sooth at dinner with him, where were likewise many women of all degrées, shée amongst the rest chose

forth an old matron to passe away the time with, which in communication, finding her to be of such a courteous disposition, as vnto her shæ made complaint of the seruile bondage her frends had brought her too. Which shæ pittying, (for what hart so hard as would not pitty her, that wanted alltogether contentmente) gaue her such good councell, as shæ her selfe had tried, hauinge bæne pestered with the like inconuenience though not with so many hart-breakinges: whereof this younge woman liked so well, on the morrow she meant to put some of her conclusions in practise. And a brother of hers comming home vnto her the next day, she likewise showed vnto him howe the Jelosy of her husband increased, desiring him to help her to effect a practise she determined to try, to which he soone agreeing, they stole both into one of her chambers, there spending the day in secret communication. How it might bee best performed, which beeing earnest passed away the time so soddenly as night was come vpon them ere they thought on it, so that thereby he forced to departe, was let forth at the doze by her selfe, whome a maied shee had (which the olde dotor made moze of then of her selfe) did espy not knowing who it was. But shee had newes inough that it was a manne, and so good to her liking, as in all hast her maister must be made acquainted there with, he vpon the hearing thereof growing so hot, as he did not onely beate his wife, but in a great rage turned her forth of the dores, reuiling her most shamefully. The silly woman had no other succour but to goe to her brothers that was married in the same towne (for she durst not complaine to her father on a soddaine, he was so cruell) who receiued her kindly and lodge her for that night, because it was so late. And in the morning betimes hee went with her to her fathers, making him acquainted with the whole matter. Who after the true search of the certainty thereof, condemned his owne folly for the match, sending for the olde miser that was met at the doze posting thetherwards to complaine. But at his comming his expectation was quite frustrated, for wher according to a former course had in the like practise, he looked to haue his wife rebuked & himselfe moned,

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hee was nowe not onely sharpely threatened for his misusage towardes her, but also deseruedly scoffed at and driuen force perforce (because hee was matched with his superiours) to bee therewith contented. And vppon the triall of the truth he found himselfe so plainely convicted, as hee confessed his faulte and asked her forgiuenes, seeking for a reconciliation to bee made betweene them. Which done they departed home, & his wife not forgetting the shame shee had indured by his meanes, studied to requite his villanye, and effected it after this manner. Her husband kept a proper man whome he did put in so great trust, as he hired him for a stale to deceiue himselfe by wishing him to trie his wiues constancy. Who dallied so long with the flame as at last he was burnte with the fire of desire, his affection so iumply meeting with her conceipt, as within a shorte time, what by faire promises, larg giftes, and her beauty (three notable baites to catch a kind foole with) she had so won him to her will, as he would not onely reueale vnto her what so euer his wise maister would say, but also would euer by false oathes sobbe him vppe with a thousand vntruthes concerning her approued honesty. Well his good reportes encreased but further mislike in his maister, with a more earnest desire to finde her false, and there vppon he would teach his man how he should further trie her, setting downe such plaine plots as by thy practise of them hee was shortly after ready at any time to doe his mistresse any good turne in his maisters absence. He had subtill wit inough, and therefore they both sped the better, he proouing so good a plaister to her sore, as if she and her husband fel out in the night, she with her man would sport in the day time, and because the olde foole was so couetous as he would drinke onely small beere to saue charges, they two would courrose whole gallons of wine at their going abroad, which was often without suspition to the olde fooles hornes. Allwayes at dinner and supper he should haue her with him to shadowe mistrust, but shee would not eate a bit with him, because his fare was so base, colouring her nicenes with want of stomacke and with sorrow for his churlishnes towardes her. With which

dissembling (for what cannot women doe by teares) her husband what betweene his mans flattery and his wiues hipocricy was quite chaunged, being verely perswaded now that she is a saint, repenting he euer mistrusted her, & recanting of his folly in falsly accusing her. For amends whereof, hee confessed the second time to her parents and frendes that he had most vndeseruedly ouerawed his faithful wife, grieued with nothing more then his hard vsage towardes her, in restraining her beeing young of honest liberty. In requitall whereof, it was lawfull for her with his young stripling to goe forth and returne at her pleasure, to be in what company she best liked of, and nothing suspected, for at this time he would not let to sweare he had the onely honest woman in the worlde. And if anye of his frends had reproued him of such folly, aleadging that youth was soone inticed to lewdnesse, his annswere was hee cared not, and his thankes were sharpe wordes. But if his neighbours tould him shee kept bad companye, associating other women that were good fellowes, hee forth with would raile vpon the reporters for slaundering his wiues honesty, and would straight haue the lawe of them for calling her good name in question. And thus liued this doter as long as the distinies woulde permit him, at his death leauing onely his hornes for his successors portion.

How like you this Tell-troth you smild at this mans folly, but you had more neede to pittie the weaknes of such, as onely led with extreames, ether hate deadly or effecte too too childishly. But nowe because thou art in a manner at thy iourneys ende, I must leaue thee, yet before I goe knowe this farther newes. That at my comming from hell the assemblie aforesaid had thought to haue broke vppe, and gon euery gouerner to his prouince to take their pleasures beeing ouer-toyled with their tedious consultations. But as they were a rising there came one in sweating with a supplication from Pierce-Pennilesse, informing them thereby to a newe labour. Which I perceiuing and imagining it woulde bee long before it were ended, beeing allready weary of their company, lefte that

newes

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newes for the knight of the poſte, and ſo you are welcome to your iourneyes ende. Robin good fellow looking for no other thankes for his company, but that (frend Tell troth) thou doſt me the fauour to publiſh this my inuectiue againſt Jeloſy.

Whereupon he deliuering vnto me a ſcroule of paper with the contents hereafter followinge, and ſo hee vaniſhed awaye I know not howe.

Tell-Trothes New-yeares Gift.

Robin Good-fellowe his Inuectiue against Ielosy.

THe Poetes altogether aymed not amisse in their fiction, whereas setting downe the torments of hell, they affirme, ther is no torture that inflictes the furies with more extreame cruelty then the fond conceites of a ielious harte, and why? for that the reuenge of a disdainefull woman is deadly, and her rewardes for mistrustfullnesse, guiftes of vnceasinge griefe, which in the ende worke vtter destruction. The cause nourished in men maketh the effect possible, and the practise intollerable.

Spice, vt iritus misandæ sors asellus ſsiduo omitus vere tardus rit.

There is no sweete so stronge, but the delighte thereof may bee crossed by the contrarye, nor anye hart so firme, but continuall vnkindnes maye remooue it. The tall oake that waueth not with euerye puffe of the winde, is easelye throwne to the ground by an extraordinary tempest. The hardest flint is pierst with often droppes, and it is not impossible thoughe vnlikelye that the skie should fall. Are they not woorthy to be nipte with the piercing stormes of a biting winter, that hauing a shelter to defend themselues from such outragious wether, and knowing a tempest will come which may ouerthrow it, neglecteth neuertheleſſe to preuent that daunger by vnderpropping the same? or deserue they to haue their estate pitied, that wilfully seeke their owne vndoing? As it is a part of wisedom to foresee a daunger, so not to withstand and to endeuour to frustrate the same with reason and forecast, is a badge of extremest folly,

Principiis obſtat ſerò medicina parantur, Cum mala per longas conualuere moras.

And Peccaui deseruedlye falles on their backes, that wittinglye and willinglye incurre the hasard thereof. If men had no vnderstanding of the plagues of hell, they would be too too vitious, and their pleasure could not but bee their destruction, vnlesse euery one had a hale-backe for his companion. If Ielosy be a torment more mercilesse then direlish Pluto; and his common

wealth,

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wealth, more grieuous then the sorrowes of hell, I sorrow to thincke that men should be so witlesse as to honour the Diuell, and so carelesse as to delight in such a weale-publike. But be it as it is, or let it be worse, as it is vnpossible it shoulde, their conceites are grown to be so base, and their enterprises so beastlike, as for the most part they follow Iealosy so eagerly, as they constraine their deerest frendes, to cut their throates with the knife they most feare, when both the euell it selfe, and the cause therof, might be remoued, so euery one would ground their loue vpon discretion.

If the practises and procedings of loue be so forcible, as they bring death with them to the hopelesse harte, hee is vnwise that will striue to encrease those affections, which are allready more then extraordinary. Ware by a temperate heat is mollified and formed being softe to any shape, but through a furious flame it either wasteth and consumeth, or els will not be touched without defiling of our fingers. The hartes of women are like vnto ware, that tempered by the passions of loue, are ready to take the impression thereof, but if it cole againe, before the printe of kindnesse be surely set on, or if the flame of fury breake forth about it, being sett on fire by the coales of misgouernemente, to what bad ende will the good beginning be turned, and how many hartbreakinges by quarrels and disagrementes will arise in the smother of such smoaky misrule? Doubtlesse the experience thereof hath taughte to too many to their griefe and will teach more to their vndoing, vnlesse the swelling of that sore be assuaged with som wholsome medicin. But they that only haue entertained the superficies of loue, neuer harboring him in their hartes, affirme that he and Iealosy are brothers, and that the one cannot bee without the other. If they that holde the same for a maxime meane, in the defence of their frendes honours, and to be Ielious of their wiues good name and reputation, I graunt that that is most kinde affection.

Art citæ, ve loque rate remoque r guntur: Ar lenis curru art regend amor.

But when Iealosy ariseth of a foolish fondnes, grounded without reason to bee remoued with euerye lighte occasion, or of mistrustfullnesse of the partye loued, without triall of anye vn-

constancy

constancy: or lastly of childish affection, lead away with an vnruely appetite, and nourished with dispayringe conceites, conceiuing what is not, and iudginge onely by shadowes, which remoue all hope, causing continuall discontentment, that maketh the ielious mans case desperate and the thinge foolish.

There is no concorde betweene water and fire, nor any medium, betweene loue and hatred, for either the hart sighes vnder the burthen of entiere affection, or groanes throughe the waight of greuous dissimulation. Loue couereth a multitude of sinneful offences, and loyalty recouereth a world of ouerslipt infirmities, but dislike findeth rottennesse in sound timber, spots in the pure white, and vnkindnesse in the constant harte, it engendereth Ielosy, and procureth enmities, it hatcheth breakepeace, and glories in quarrels, all it delighte, is in findinge of faultes, and all it ioy to encrease mislike. If it hath it beginning of loues contrary, yea in nature: how can there bee anye brotherly equality betweene them, vnlesse vnhappilye wee will make the eye, father to both, that seeinge aswell good as euell entiseth the hart, through corrupt affections to be misled by wicked elusions, bringing foorth bastardes in steede of true begotten children: For if Ielosy be loues brother, it is by corruption of nature, brought foorth vnlawfully, which may thus be manifested. After the eye hath chosen an obiect which brings so sweet contentment to the hart, as it highly delighteth in the same, that proouing so kinde loue, and such feruent affection in both, as lawfull requitall makes a pleasing satisfaction: the eye receiuinge kinde glaunces, for amorous glotinges, and louinge hartebreakinges for affectionate hart sighings. The eie beeing pleased with an eye, and the hart contented with a hart, they frolique both in glory as long as they rest in constancie, but wandring from forth that sanctuary, the eie either spies another eie that better pleaseth it, and the harte likes of another harte that better contentes it, or else the eie lookes curishly into his owne hart and spies some fault in himselfe which displeasing, begetteth Ielosy, whereby the eie may be said to be originall and father of both.

How

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How is it possible that falshood should be in frendship, or can the hand beguile the hart that ruleth it? no more will a louing wife playe false with him, to whome shee is ioyned both by the lawe of god and man, or a frend crosse her louing exceedinges, in whome his hart delighteth. That which is bred in the bone will neuer out of the flesh, and what Nature hath made Arte cannot marre. If Enuie hath a tricke with her heele, all the diuells in hell cannot alter it. And I maruell menne are so foolishe, as to matche themselues with suche women, whome they haue cause to suspect. Doubtlesse either their own life hath beene lasciuious by which they iudge others, or their meaning bad in chusing such companions, when nowe ouerlate repentinge of their bargaine they light on a worser mischiefe. Although the fox be so crafty, as he deceiues many, yet sometimes he meeteth with a champion more subtill then himselfe. The pitcher goeth long to the water, but at laste getteth a knocke through the bearers fault, and is brought home broken. The Ielious man feareth his owne shadow, and looketh narrowly vnto it, yet (likely) at last commeth a substaunce, who (when he thinketh least on it) entereth doinge him iustice, though hee neuer the wiser. It is straunge that menne are so foolish, as to seeke their owne vndoing, for assuredly looke by what measure they sell by the same shall they receiue their owne without aduauntage. The quarreling mate shall not complaine for want of knockes, or the ielious man longe desire hell, when the one shall finde like swashbucklers vnto himselfe, and the others wife will not sticke to cut his throat with the knife hee hath so long feared.

Quid formosa non nisi sta place Nō pos vllis ista re modis

Indign licet, iuu inconcess voluptas. Sola plac rimeo, dic re si qua p test

If mens loue be simplie good, women cannot but affectionate them with like simplicity, but if they playe false (Ielosye beeing their cloake) they will be sure to keepe knaues to crosse their cardes with. In these dayes euery cobler doth feare the carter, and setes vppe his whippe at his doze to keepe Iohn Cobbilero from his lattice. And I pray you vppon what reasons shall these ielious trickes be discarded. Somme haue it by nature, and say kit must after kind, bee it but in scraping of a

frying panne. Beware of naturall foolles as long as you liue, for a bad tricke ingrafted in them, neuer leaueth them vntill he hath brought seaueuty worse into his roome. And as for the inuention of their predicessors they must needes goe to the diuell with them for companie. Others builde their knauery on other mens misfortune, that are matched with Joone communis omnibus, that could play at bucklers so sone as she was past her cradell. Oh shee is a tall peece of flesh, and will stand to her tackling so stoutly as the diuell himselfe shall not get the waisters from her: I counsell him that thinketh hee hath met with her companion, to cease to greene at it, and striue not to remoue that he cannot stirre, least happily shee falls quit from him & neuer serueth him after. Many honour him of custome, because they hold their landes of him by homage, their predicessors, allwayes hauing beene his sworne subiectes. A pittifull custome that tendeth to the tenauntes vndoing, and a title that might very well bee resigned ouer and denied, seeing it only toucheth free taile or seruices vnreasonable to be performed. And a great part obtaine his entertainment by vse and practise, those are greene headed that long for reformations, & would haue new lawes instituted euery quarter, desiring to try new conclusions whether it were possible for a man to liue vnto himselfe. Which are so delighted with common cases, as they make honesty a necessity, thrusting him out of the doores at their pleasure, by vsing them most shamefully whome they ought to loue entirly. But most playe ielious parts of knauery and bad entention, meaning to make a practise of paltry peuishnesse and knauish conceiptes. They will be ielious to try their wiues or frendes constancy, being neuer ashamed of their owne villany.

Quidquid ruatur, cumus mas: ipsaque irem cura ocat: pauci uod sine al er, amant,

What shall I saye, I greene to thinke on mens hard happe, and womens vnkindnesse, the one nourishing mischiefe, and the other persewing with deadly execution, the tormentes they suspecte and greeue at. I haue hard (euen of kinde gentlewomen reported, whoe haue beene ouer vered with the suspitious conceiptes of ielious husbandes) that their slaunderous thoughtes

concerning

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concerning the ſuſpected crimes, did not ſo much aggrauate their owne griefe (though it were intollerable) as the ſight therof did encreaſe their wiues ioy and delight, onely pleaſed with this ſweet melody. That they knewe themſelues to bee moſt conſtant and faithfull, though ſuſpected of the contrarye, and their husbandes deſiring no more then conſtancy, cannot content themſelues with their deſired felicity, but greeue their own ſoules with triphells, and eate vppe their owne harts through ſuſpition of diſloyalty. I would but demaund what recompence a ielious man receiueth by all his trauell, or what little ioy he reapes by his miſtruſtfullneſſe and continuall penſiueneſſe? The loweſt ebbe is counteruailed with as high a floode, and boyſtrous ſtormes with calme wether, the glomeſt daye maye darken the ſunne, but not abate his pride, and as there are extreame droughtes, ſo ſometimes falls the contrary by extraordinary tempeſts. There is no ſorre but may bee qualified with ſweet potions, nor any doubtfull malady that may not be allied with delightfull muſicke, onely ielious thoughts with loue are vncurable, and that a corſiue moſt dangerous to mens hartes. It is vaine to ſtriue againſt the ſtreame, and as fooliſh to build caſtels in the aire. He that thinketh to catch the aire in a bottle deſerueth to be laft at, & he that would ty vp his wiues or frends honeſty in a ſtring to bee pitied, both follies fit for innoents & practizes without end. I thinke Vulcans Jeloſy preuailed him nothing, & his catching of Marce & Venus in a purcenet as little, except a confirmation of his great grief & an aſſured knowledg of his horned head, proning a continuall badge of his infamy. The like followed many others ſuſpition, and the like will enſewe of ſuch folly. Vulcan knewe that Mars was a copartner with him in Venus boſome. And he himſelfe could not but bluſh when hee had wooed his owne ſpouſe (the goddeſſe of loue) in ſteede of Briceris his beloued paramore. I knowe that euery one hath his faulte, and all deſerue equall puniſhmente, onely Robin good fellow wiſhes, that mens & womens preſumtions may be certaine, and that their ſuſpecte may bee built on a ſure ground.

If men would imitate the ſame rule to auoide Ieloſy, which Cicero hath ſet downe in his Offices, as moſt requiſite to maintaine a happy weale publike (alleaginge it was the parte of mad men to wiſhe for a gloomy day, when the ſonne ſhined moſt gloriouſly, or to deſire warre and turmoyling troubles, when the common-wealth flouriſheth moſt happily through peace and tranquillity : But to alay hurly burlies with councel and to make warres ceaſe by aduice was greate wiſedome.) They would not encreaſe their owne greefe and ſorrow : or rather beeing at quiet and obtaining the heigth of pleaſure by mutuall loue and affection, they woulde not (I ſay) long after vnreſt, or purſue troubles and continuall diſquietnes with might and maine without meaſure: ſeeing the obtaining of their owne deſire is a proofe of their misfortune, and the iudgemente after the verdict of ſuch a tilte continual ſhame and infamy. The man is happy that is accounted happy, and none are richer then thoſe that be ſo adiudged of. If then fame be ſo fauourable as to reckon a beggar equall with a kinge, is not hee a fole which will himſelfe reproue her of an vntrueth ? The prouerbe adiudges that, an il bird, which will defile his owne neſt : and is not he a bad cuckold, that will regiſter himſelf one when the clarke hath left him out of fauour ? By how much it is better to be one beeing accounted none, then to be none and reputed one, by ſo much the more are they beholdinge to themſelues, for the horne that blowes their Ieloſy vntill it flames. An extraordinary ſmoake breedes ſuſpect of a hurtefull fire, and many ſparkes make men to wonder, yet the harme of both of them is preuented by care and diligence.

reus eſt, piumque fauet ille ori, cui itur victa mat crua, rea.

I would but know the manne (ſemper excipio the wittall) that would not be loath to be pointed at with a paire of hornes, & yet I know very many, and haue hard of an innumerable company that haue made the whole parriſhe, yea the country priuy to their misfortune by deſarte of them. Well then hereafter if there be any that hath a toting head and would not haue it ſene, let him keepe it ſecretely to himſelfe, and make the beſt of it. He goes farre that neuer turnes, and ſhee is a diuell that will neuer

mend

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mende, and since the diuell is good to some body, let the ielious man make much of her, that the shée diuell may bee good to him.

Sorrow craues pitty, and submission deserues pardon. Flectitur tus voce r gante dei

Hee is ouer hard harted that will not be entreated, and diuelish that cannot forgiue. If then vpon penitent submission a man shalbe forced to receiue her into fauour that hath offended, will it not be so much to his better contentmente, by how much a few are acquainted with the mischiefe? That grief is best disgested that bringes not open shame, but a spightfull blow proones a noted scarre. But suppose the worst that can happe imagine shée will neuer be good, building vpon the old sayinge: Shee that knowes where Christes crosse standes, will neuer forget where great Adwels, yet a man were better to bee troubled with a queane alone, then to bee forced to kéepe both a queane and a knaue: for as the law grantes a deuorcement, so is it requisite it shoulde allow the woman mainetenance, and what shall her knaue lacke, that she hath? Whosoeuer therefore that is bound to a bad bargaine whereof comes two mischiefes, either to kéepe a queane or to parte with money, if he will follow Robin good fellowes councel, let him rather choose to diet her in his owne house, then to pay for the boord of her and her louer in a strange place.

Quo sem est imbuta recens ser uabit odo Testa diu.

E duob malis min mum est el gendum.

But because it is the best labour, to worke the confusion of such an enmity as Ielosy is, whose company encreaseth multitudes of inconueniences, My meaninge is to set downe some necessary helpes, how such a mischiefe may bee best preuented. And first I councel euery one that is enfected with such a plage to séeke to forestall the daunger thereof, by kinde and gentle plaisters. I meane that shée who hath a ielious husband, subiect to the like infirmities before mencioned, shoulde reclaime him by gentle vsage, and ouercome his vaine suspition with modest behauiour, not vsinge any vncluill tricke in disdainefull manner before his face, he hating the same, or vsing other suspitious practises, onely to crosse him with them: and so to carry themselues in all places, and at all times, as they may neither giue cause of offence vnto them, or of mistrust vnto others. The like meane ought to be executed by men, that they ouerlay not their

Obsequium Tigre sq. dc mat, timide que leones.

fearefull

full wiues, brauing them with disdainefull likelyhoodes of dis-
honest behauiour, but that they dissuade them from sulpition by
the contraries, remouing their ielious conceites by kindnesse,
and louely dalliance. It is easy to cure a greene wound, but the
daunger of a festred sore is mortall. The young tree will stoup
when the old shrewd cannot bend, and new conceites are easly
remoued, but engrauen thoughtes will not be rubbed forth,
and loue is of so great force as he sooner ouercomes with a faire
word, then his enimye shall conquere by all his forces. Howe
happie is that common wealth where peace raigneth, and that
family which concord gouerneth, the one nourishing true amity
amongst her subiectes, the other establishing vanity betweene
man and wife.

What greater griefe then life with discontent,
When discontent of want of loue ariseth?
Loue hath no lacke but allwayes liues content.
And any thing to please his mind sufficeth,
Rich is true loue abounding still with store,
The lacke whereof makes want a grieuous sore.

The sweete of loue doth yeeld so sweete a tast,
As mixt with gall he turnes the sower to sweete:
By him is strength and blessed weale imbrast,
By him is harts-ease gaind and ioy most greet,
Strong is true loue whose strength is kindly set:
To heape with sweete that sower his ioy ne let.

The sport of loue is full of ioyfull smiles,
He cures all sores with one most kindest salue:
A pleasing kisse his frowning rage beguiles.
And one faire word his anger doth dissolue,
Pleasant is loue he ioyes in weale and woe:
His rage with smiles his wroth with kisses goe.

Thus

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Thus liueth loue and no otherwise fare they that be his followers, they are neuer hart sicke because they neuer suspecte, nor euer displeased because for that by themselues they are not grieued. Who is more tormented then he that teares his owne flesh, or who deserues more griefe then they that will not vse the remedy To lock vp ones wife for fear of sparrow-blasting, dub himself a cuckould within an iron cage, and to seeke is to to rule her by correction when he cannot gouerne himself with discretion, is to gather a rod to beate his owne breeche. For whiles she is lockte in her studie her mind hath the more liberty to inuent a fit reuenge against her going abroad. What is it they cannot effecte if they haue a will thereunto. And what woman is there that liues without a meanes to repaye a good turne, or to requite a bad? Vse them therefore well is the wisest way to liue quietly, to loue them entirely the onely meanes to be e long happy.

Non mens seruare potes, licet omnia claudas omnibus e cluſis, intus adulter eri Si ſapis indulge domine: vultuſq; ſeueros exue.

If she meanes to deceiue thée, her inuention is hard to be preuented, for watch her neuer so narrowly she will finde a time to performe her knauery. The silliest creatures are sildome catcht in ordinary trappes, and can women want wit to frustrate a common stale? If it wer possible to know their thoughts it were likely their practises might be hindered, but as long as secreta mihi raignes, the rains of their liberty are at their own pleasures. And I thinke men are best at ease when they are so pleased, at least wise men are or should be, seeing their contentment hanges in their wills. For what house is in quiet where the goodwife is out of patience. If the maister bee angry the fault onely lies on the mistrisse her neeks, but be she moued, about goes the maides, away runne the menne, and I make a doubt whether her husband dares to out stand her. I am assured shee will out chide him. Flatery is a sweet baite, and kindnesse a wholesome potion, & nothing more then vnlawfullnes enticeth vs vnto lewdnesse? The delighte of sweete is taken away by surfitting of sugger, but who by nature is not desirous of nouelties. There would not so many purcase Tiborne, vnlesse there were a Bull to hange them, nor so many yeeld vppe

Centũ frontę occulos, centum ceruice gerebat Argus, & hos vnus ſæpe fefellit amor.

Quod licet ingratum eſt: quod non licet acrius vrit.

the

the poſſeſſion of their garmentes to the hangmen, were ther not a lawe to condemne them. And I warrant you there would be fewer horned heads, if ielious hartes were ſcanter, wherby the practiſe of watching might decay. Who knowes liberty better then they that haue beene in bondage? And whoe for the moſt parte vſeth it worſe then they that knowe it beſt? A mind ouerladed with ioy committeth manye errours in his iolity, & a harte preſſed downe with ſorrowe, thinkes of manye miſchiefes. Extreames are neuer good, and howe can one ſooner fall into them then being made acquaintes with one of them? Hauing beene in the dungion of diſcontent, and being ſet free to range at our pleaſure, we thinke we are neuer at the territ of delight before with Ouids builders wee touch the heauens, ſo imperfect is our nature.

imur in
itum ſem
cupimus
e negata.
li peccare
et, peccat
nus ipſa
teſtas ſe-
ina nequi-
e langui-
ore facit.

Perſwaſions are of great force to moue women, whoſe harts though moſt tender, withſtand nothing more then crabbed vſage. Howe loue vnto them, and they will ſweare conſtancy vnto you, and if perchance they make ſome ouerſlip by their deſeruing Jelouſy, yet grow not ſtraight collericke, but ſay your paternoſter before you reprehend them for it, in which time which is as ſmall as may be, you ſhall by tempering your wit with wiſdome, finde ſo tractable a medicine to drawe her from a ſecond fault, as her penitencie will take away all ſuſpition of hipocricie. Say but you are ſorrowfull to heare it, or aſhamed to ſee it, and of my word her next ſhall be an oth neuer to commit the like folly. What a cheape ſubpena is this to drawe an anſwere from the conſcience? When paraduenture todeals otherwiſe would come to neede a writ of rebellion. There is no aſſurance better then that which is made with a ſafe conſcience, and no man ſtands on a better ground then he that buildes on his wiues word. If ſhe ſpeaks it why ſhould we not rather beliene her then an other that ſhould report no more vnto vs? Oh I knowe what you will ſay, becauſe ſhe ſpeakes in her owne defence, and maye not the other ſlaunder vppon a malicious will? What will not the diuell doe for aduauntage, and what can hee doe without his inſtrumentes? To bee too too cruell

O vtinam
rguerem
c, vt non
incere poſ-
em: Me mi-
erum quare
am bona
cauſa mea
ſt?
Per veneré
uro, pueriq.
olatilis ar-
cus: me non
admiſi cri-
minis eſſe
reum.

breeds

breedes repentaunce, as well as careleſſenes forerunnes ſorrow. When tender droppes will pearce the flint, the hard ſtele is vnneceſſarye, and where good counſell will correcte, a rod were better awaye then preſente? They ſay that overawing makes ſoles, and what will they let to doe? It is as hard to get any good out of them that are witleſſe, as to force water out of a flint, and yet I ſay not but that good may be gotten of them, but with it I affirme, it muſt be by kind meanes. Fy fy ſweete hart what loſe trickes are theſe, or what immodiſty will this be accounted? Will ſtrike ſo deepely into a reformatiue conſcience, as there ſhall not neede out vpon thee, with ſome beaſtly tearme of a brutiſh toung for a whit of correction. And they will driue an obedient wife to ſuch contrition, as there ſhall be no thought of an vnkind extrution either of her out of doores, or of her good name and fame from it wonted reputaation. Why is the husband called his wiues good-manne, but becauſe hee ought to be a meane to with-draw her from ſuch imperfections as nature hath left in her? He in my iudgement can be but a bad common wealthes man which is an ill husband, for looke what ill faſhions raigne vncorrected at home, the lik. inormities ſhould reſt in his forrain charge. For who knowes not that we haue the greateſt care (if we haue any at al) of thoſe things which are neareſt vnto our ſelues, and why may not I affirme that ſuch a one will reſpecte little a common profitte, when hee regards ſo lightly his owne priuate wellfare. Oh I woulde Robin might be tedious not troubleſome, hee would then endeauor a further probability of the ielious mans folly, but fearing he hath offended too too much already, hee will euen but ſhut vppe his remnant breefely.

Hæc til ſunt mecu mihi ſunt communia tecum: in bona cur quiſquam tertius iſta venit?

The ſweeteſt flower whoſe ſtaulk ſharpe prickles gard,
Yeeldes pleaſant ſent, through care, without annoy:
The Goosbery with hurtfull buſhes ward,
Surrenders vp it ſelfe, through care to ioy.

The rammiſh hauke is tamd by carefull heed,
And will be brought to ſtoope vnto the lewre:
The ferceſt Lyon will requite a deed
Of curteſie, with kindneſſe to endure.

What fiſh ſo proud as doth diſdaine a baite?
Nor fiſh, beaſt, foule, nor fruit but takes the mate.
Then ſince that care ſpeedes beſt with curteſie:
Vſe care and kindneſſe to mate Ieloſy.

This is Robins counſell, a ſoueraigne oyle of experience to drawe away the droppinges of Jeloſyes noſe, that ſo much anoyes the patients harte. Which muſt be wrought moſt gently, laboured with the perſwaſions of reaſon, the effecte wherof I warrant you wil proue ſo profitable as either he will be freed from noyſommes, or haue his noſe put out of ioynt. Couetuouſnes is a peſtelent help to Jeloſy, for how can he that hath ſet al his loue on his money, be drawn to beſtow part thereof on his wife. No of my credit, he that hath crept into that vaine, hath ſo far crawled from honeſty, as hee cares not what iniury hee doth. He knowes that loue will aske coſt, and why doth he loue the diuell but to ſaue charges. For could he be contented to doe good, as he is forward to worke miſchiefe, he would deale with loue better then to locke him vp in his coffers. Oh it is a ſwæte thing to him to diue vppe to the elbowe in a bagge, while the kind man beſtowes his time in kiſſes. But let the other be aſſured that whileſt this inioyes paradice, he ſhall be ſtriuing to paſſe through the eie of an nedle which ſhall proue vnpoſſible. It is a gay thing to come to dignity, but it is a more benificiall thinge to vſe honeſty, but whye doe I talke of honeſty to them that neuer meant to enter eternity. Surely for no other cauſe, but for that Robin knowinge the ſlauerye that is prepared for you, is moued io pitty, and could wiſh you had care to preuente the puniſhment of the cormorantes dungion. But I care not howe little honeſty you haue ſo you ſhunne Jeloſy, for I onely harpe on that ſtring at this preſent, which I ſay cannot bee a-

voided

voided without the entertainment of loue, who will soone thrust him headlong besides his possession.

Omnia vincit Amor et nos cedamus amori. The passions of loue are so passing kinde, as they subdewe whersoeuer they become, yea assuredly they will either conquere or kill, and because life is most sweete, we will rather yeeld to affection then die for Jelosy. Loue is a pleasing gout which will suffer vs no more to be misled by vnrest, then the tormenting gout wil giue his patientes leaue to rest while the paine is vnceasing. And such a hartie dropsie is he as he swels his criples affections with so great kindnesse as they sing no song but Ah I loue. He is a nettle that stinges the hart with continuall pleasure, and that babie which lodges in womens and mens eies, on whome none shall fix the fancy kindly that shall not be stroken with a darte of constauncy, hee is the greeuing woe that breedes continuall ioy, the fond conceipt that fastens faithful thoughts in his place and that euill that reapes eternall good. To rehearse her qualities were a new worke for Robin-good-fellow, and so followe his properties not a labour without profit. But his chiefest qualitie is to be kind, and his next to be constant, he euer forgiues and still forgetes faultes, He delightes not in breed-bates, nor doth he glory in the quarrells of deerest frendes, but all his actions are faithfull, and all his thoughtes fruitfull. Dandill him and he will sporte thee, set him in thy lappe and hee will comfort thy hart, Speake him faire and hee will kisse thee kindly, like him onely & he will loue thée euer. He neuer is hasty but hée repentes thereof presently, paying for euery vnkinde worde a sorrowfull hei ho. As he will be soone angry so is hee straight pleased, & therfore was he fained to be little in being neuer long troubled with extreames. But there is a certaine madnesse which men call loue, the same proouing so great fondnesse, as euery frowne of a mistrisse makes some melancholy a quarter after, and to match that is foolish dotage set, both so hot passions for a while, as they proue in the end to be loues greatest enimy, euen pestelent Jelosy. The one will die if hee hath not his longing, as for the other (for that hee is more craftie) hee hath

Define(c
de mihi)
tia irritar
vetando:
sequio v
ces aptiu
ipse tuo.
En ego c
fiteor .ua
sum noua
præda, C
pido.
Porrigim
victas ad
vincla ma
nus.
Blanditiæ
comites
erunt. teri
qne furo
assidué p
tes turba
cuta tuas.
His tu mi
tibus supe
ras homin
que deosq
Nil opus
bello: ver
am pacem
rogamus.

many subtill meanes to obtaine his desire, yet both of them are so far from reason, as they hurt themselues willingly. Nowe to iudge howe kind they will be to others that be so crabbed to themselues, Robin leaues that to common reason. Yet because these two extreames namely mad fondnesse and dottage, are the onely meanes to helpe Ielosy, I will bee bould a little to touch them.

The extraordinary conceipt of obtained curtisy, moues such a liking in the ouer passionate louer, as all his sences are onely tied to one obiect, & his whol hart dedicated to that saint the sole mistrisse of his hart. As the extremity which tormentes him is eased with nought except what comes from her kindnesse so his mad fittes, once crossed with discourtesie, breed that vncurable melancholy which deadly grife and vntimely death do followe. But both of them being perchance stroken with the selfe same arrowe, shot from the impertiall blind boy his bowe, are rauished with the delighte they conceiue the one from the other, their thoughtes being heauenly, because true to each other, and their true loue bowed to eternity, manifested by no small fauours. Which happily euery day more and more encreasing frendship, remaines to both with wished contentment: vntill vnhappily Ielosy (the professed enimye to louers prosperity) picketh a quarrell with one or both by false vnconstancy. Then beginnes our hot loue to turne to burning coles, prouing such fondnesse as wee suspecte our owne shadowes. Wee gorge our selues so vnreasonably with the delight of our saintes beautie, as wee cast vppe the hope of their faithfullnesse. We wil make them saintes and thinke them diuells, louing them so entirely as our ouer much makes them vnhappy. Wee doe set them vp in vndecent brauery, and set them out with foolish praises, yet should any strangers (though of the familiars sorte) seeme to sue to them, nay I may truely say speake to them, it may bee the better for the men, but bee assured it shall bee the worse for the women. And now comes in dissimulation, by which we most practise to vse them kindly whome wee hate deadly, to speake them faire to their faces, whome wee curse behind their backs, and

meane the
ath of hyr
it or of hir
ue.

inguis a-
or nimiũ-
ue potens,
a tedia no-
is vertitur,
stomacho
lulcis vt es-
a, nocet.

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and to fæde them with dainties, whom wæ could wish poisoned. After the selfe same manner fare our wiues, they haue a kinde dinner and a crabbed supper, sweete meate with sower sawce, and a pleasaunt drinke with a poisoned potion, so fonde extreames falling one on the others backe, as in a moment wæ will vse them like Goddesses, (if we doe not confesse vnto them, they are no lesse vnto vs) and no otherwise then diuels, swering now we hate them most deadly, whome euen now wee protested to loue most diuinely: suche monstrous vnconstancy doth this fondnesse nourish. Neither shall these trickes be extraordinary once in seauen yeares, but I would Robin could not avow that he hath sæne them perfourmed one euery day in many places. Well I will leaue them to their amendes, and touche as briefly the doctor.

O facies & oculos na teneremec

Who after a little pampering (hauing perchance had his liberty in good pasture for halfe a yeare, without exercise,) doth grow so frollicke, as he thinkes himselfe as youthfull as the yongest nagge, though he hath as many diseases as a iade can haue. In this bravery hee must bee furnished with a gay saddell, and none vnder a ladye maye serue his tourne: I meane while his prouender prickes, he wilbe so lusty as hee thinkes no woman too yong for him. In which vaine, beeing thus couragious, hee spendes franckly and settes himselfe forth in the bravest manner, so that by his hope quid non aurum? he will hap vppon so vnequall a match (by practise prooued) as after one nights iourney hè begins to be tadishly tired, euery day after growing mistrustfull. So that as his monstrous desire hath bene the meane to loyne himselfe with suche inequallity, so shall his knowne cold courage, and her youthfull yeares, be a line to leade him to Jelosy. Whose persuasions as yet haue taken such desired effect, as at this time where loue sækes to builde his kingdome, this his enmity (I meane Jelosy) neuer surceaseth from armes vntill he hath loue out by the eares, being still accompanied with like-bats, & alwaies followed by vnhappy discontentment. His prosperity generally allowed off in mens conceits, is grædely followed by their vnconstant hartes, which loue nothinge that

is eternall, nor like of any loue, but what wil alter dayly. And because I haue entred so farre into the gouernement of Jelosy, I will presume to wade a little further into his kingdome.

In the countrey of Euery-place he raigneth, a ruler as pernitious as mightye, and more mightye then either vertuous or peaceable. As his kingdome is large, so his subiectes are many, his land beeing inhabited by people no lesse vnruely then himselfe, and his right mainetained by make-bates that neuer are satisfied vntill their owne blood hath raunsomed the delight of their desired death. Manye are his aduersaries, and more his frendes, euery disposition drawne to follow his humours, and desirous of his entertainement, by reason his actions seeme pleasing, and his cause righte and profitable. His regimente is well strengthned by force of men, hauing stronge holdes, seeming no lesse delightfull in show, though by experience it proues most fruitlesse and barren. His chiefest citty and seat of pleasure (accompted of his subiectes the seconde Parradise) standes on the top of a high hill called Mistrustfullnesse, at foote whereof runneth the swift riuer Vnconstancy, hauinge this effecte in operation, that whosoeuer inbathe themselues therein, finde continuall alterations in their harts before setled, and now tormented with variable thoughtes. In this streame are manye sandy shallowes, and as many daungerous holes, both continually vsed and frequented vnto, as well by the inhabitantes of that citie, as also by all such, who chaunce to trauell that way. This citty hath his name Light of loue maineteined by elders, whoe are elected, not for their wealth and wit, as in other countries, but for their enuy and folishnesse. Their common traffiche is Exchaunge of Loue, and their profites Disquietnesse and Hate, The fruite that delighteh their appetites, is Faithlesse Fancies, and the meates they feede on, Care & Vnrest. The sportes they ioy in are continuall brawles, and the walkes they take pleasure in watching, and hope of finding. All their triumphes are Controuersies in law, and all their turnies for broken pates with faggot sticks, their feast day is repentaunce, and Death their Sabboath.

This

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This citie bearing the chiefe swaie for vnrulinesse, hath so dis-persed her inhabitaunce into the other partes of the cuntrey, as for the most part there is neuer a cottage in Ielosyes common wealth but harbours iourney men as bad as their maisters in condition. His houldes and castels are both stronge and many, being fortified with deepe cast-rauelinges, and furnished with all kindes of ingions fit for warre. Theire artillery for defence so wel placed on the battlements of their towers, as they wonderfully and daungerously annoye their ennemy. Curses and Banninges are the least shot they carry and a thousande bitter wordes will do no more then charge one of them. The natures of these people are variable, and they, beinge for the most parte false harted, are likewise desirous still of new frends. The enterteinement they will giue strangers is verye good, but the vsage of their frendes and familiars, especially of their wiues (as you haue hard already) is generally too too bad. They altogether reiecting reason, performe rashly what so euer they thinke, and effecte diuelishly what so euer they practise. Their wills are their lawe, and suspecte their iudge, their iudgments being as lawlesse as their lawe is wanting reason and discretion. They bandy honesty as a tennis-ball, and play with good report as a childe doth with an apple, the one not being in quiet vntill it bee eaten, & the other neuer satisfyed vntill their good hope be quite extinguished. The busy Ape comes not to so many shrowde turnes by his vnhappye trickes, as they come vnto mischiefe by their troublesome dispositions, nor doth he deserue so much the whip to keepe him in awe, as they merrit the halter for bringing so many vnto misery. For if the law rewards him with a halfe penny corde that doth rob a stranger of thirteene pence halfe penny. I knowe no reason howe they can bee accompted lesse then theeues, that either robbe their neighbours or spoile themselues of their good names. He that killes himself shalbe buried by the law in the commons, and why shoulde not he be intombed vnder the gallowes, that not onelye cuttes his owne throate, hasting thereby to the diuell, but cuts his wiues also, toling her thither for company.

Ah soueraigne loue, whose sweetnesse salues the sowre,
And cures the woundes of euery dying hart:
Thou kilst by kindnesse if thou kilst. No lowre,
Ads greater griefe to them that feele thy smarte.

Thou countes it paine enongh, by proofe to finde,
How two kind hartes may fast remaine in one.
Thy captiue bounds make but a constant mind,
And all thy warre is for long Peace alone.

Thou ties the mind and lets their handes goe free:
Thou woundes the hart and neuer hurtes the skinne:
Thy victory is loue for loue to see:
Thy greatest conquest where there is least sinne.

Ah sweetest loue, thou wounds to cure for aye,
Whose sharpe shor-nitght procures a sweete long-day.

Such is loues enuy, and himselfe no worse an ennemy, hee fightes strongly, but to frée euerlastingly: he tormentes happily and chéereth frowardly, and both his smiles & frownes are so equally tempered, as his pleasing mixture makes a perfect medley, which yéelds most melodious constancy. One loue and one life shall knit so perfect a knott of amity, as one death shall ende both their ioyes and miseries. Her loue shalbe his life, and his life her loue, shée shall endure no torment without his torture, nor shall he suffer any extreamity without her agony. His sickenesse shalbe her sorrow, and her griefe woorse then his deathes wound. Their care shalbe to encrease each-others hartes-ease, and their strifes, which of them shall excéede the one the other in courtesy. Their dalliaunce shall bee rewarded with darlinges, whose swéete fauoured faces, shal be routinuall pledges of their faithfull kindnesse. The daughters shalbee like to their fathers, and the sonnes haue the countenances of their mothers. Their encrease shalbe multiplied, their substance doubled and trebled till it come to aboundance, liuing so longe as thrée folde generations

Non mihi ille placēt on sum de-ertor amo-s: Tu mi-i (si qua fi-es) cura pe-ennis eris. Tecū, quos lederint an-nos mihi fila ororum, vi-uere contin-gat, teq. do-lente, mori.

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rations ſhall make ioyfull great grand-mothers, and degrées of honour make happy poſterities. They ſhall adde ſo great a bleſsing to their ſtoꝛe as time ſhall not take away the memoꝛy of them, noꝛ fame ſuffer their antiquitye euer to die. A woꝛld ſhall ende with their honour, neither ſhall that woꝛld decay vntill their dignity be regiſtred in the true cronicles of eternity.

Thus ſhall loues followers be thꝛiſe happy, and thus Robin goodfellowes well-willers, in imitating his care bee manifolde bleſſed. They ſhall haue their hartes deſire, and I my wiſhe, which I pꝛay may happen to both our contentmentes, and ſo farewell.

G

COurtious and louely Dames, ſome to winne your fauour prouid ſuche coſtly giftes as may beſeeme your acceptance, and others ſo rare deuiſes as a yeares trauell hath purchaſed: but Tell troth, though as ſeruiceable as they which are moſt paſſionate, and as amorous as who exceedes in affection, hath only bought for you a dramme of wit; amounting to fower pennye charges to paſſe for a new-yeares gift. The dedication whereof I haue rather ſubiected to your curteſie then to mens patrocinie; for that your ſelues being of the pureſt mettall; and hauing your hartes framed of the kindeſt moule, will be both more ready to defend our good meanings, and willing to hinder that hagges proceedings, your wills will be leaſt followed and therefore your wits muſt be moſt vſed, wherby you, whoſe ſweete flowing tounges charme more then the Orphean muſicke, muſt ſtraine your melodious notes to that heigh, as by your ſingularitie you may make Ieloſie aſhamed, & by ſolemme vowes breake the necke of ſuſpition You muſt diſwade with wordes and perſwade by modeſt behauiour, confounding by wit and confirming with diſcretion. Following Robins rules to preuent the diuells practiſe, and making much of loue to withſtand Ieloſies councell. And for that Tell troth tells the truth, which by triall you muſt proue, vſe Robins ſalue to heale your ſore, and performe his will to inioy your weale, whereby your confirmation may approue his cunning, and allowe my perſumption in a greater

greater matter. Robin hath here but onely touched that generall knowne enimie to a quiet life, but hee meanes by your further fauourable protection, ſhortly to arme you againſt many pettie aduerſaries which worke againſt loues welfare. If in the meane time your good reportes knocke downe the buſie carppers, it ſhall bee a ſufficient ſpurre to make both Robins wit and my pen to triumph in ſpite of them, which ſhall by wading further to anger them, light into that vaine which will better content you. Vntill which time (becauſe I would not be tedious) I will leaue you, ſubmitting the wiſh of your welfare to the pleaſure of your owne wills.

Yours as he hath euer beene.

Tell troth.